



# Engineer Company B

"Engineering the Impossible"

## Family and Friends

### Newsletter



Issue 3

Newsletter Date  
Jan-Mar 2004

#### Special points of interest:

- MCCS One Source offers advice, support, practical solutions, and online resources.
- MARFORRES Marine Corps Community Services has created a web site with lots of information related to family readiness.
- New USMC Operation Iraqi Freedom Hotline
- Annual Drill Schedule

#### Inside this issue:

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#### Welcome to our third edition of the Family and Friends Newsletter

Welcome to our third edition of the Eng Co B, Key Volunteer Newsletter (Family and Friends Newsletter). This is an official U.S.M.C. organization that provides an effective means of communication between families and their units. We are not only here to help when our Marines deploy, but through out the whole year. Military families have always supported their own, and the Key Volunteer Network gives you the resources to be better informed and the ability to assist others in need. Now that our Marines are back and into a routine does not mean that the job is done, there is always a possibility that they could be reactivated again. There are currently a few of our Marines that were reactivated and went with another unit. That means that we need to make sure that this unit is ready if they get the call again. In the coming months

our Marines will be required to update their family contact sheets, in order to update the phone tree. The phone tree is an important part of our network, sometimes our Marines get caught up in their work and may neglect to share important information with you, so that's where the newsletter and phone tree comes into play. You will receive information on drill dates, information on military perks, family readiness, and key contact numbers. Volunteers are needed for our network. If you are interested please contact me.

#### Unit Key Volunteer Coordinator:

Christine Zupsich  
Email: zupsichcl@mfr.usmc.mil



Hey they caught us—GySgt Santos loading a newly purchased toy—Toys for Tots

#### Upcoming events

- May 9-30, Indi 500 (MC Ball fundraiser—volunteers needed)
- Jun 12th, KV training
- Jun 18-20, Grand Prix (MC Ball fundraiser—volunteers needed)
- Jun 18—Jul 2nd, Annual Training (AT)
- Jul 2, Family Readiness Day/BBQ—Information for families.
- Aug 6-8, Brickyard 400 (MC Ball fundraiser—volunteers needed)

### Que Pasa "what's Happening"

Recently, we said good bye and good luck to 4 more of our Marines (Cpl's Plonski, Saenz, LCpl Bowling and PFC Freeman) who deployed to Iraqi Freedom II (OIF II) with Bridge Company B out of Folsom, PA. The 4 Marines will fill empty engineer positions that Bridge Company B where short of. They

are part of a rotation of Reserve units being sent over to Iraq to help rebuild the region. Once we receive an address for these Marines we will pass it out so that everyone can send care packages or letters of support. So far this Company has activated 5 Marines in support of OIF II. Cpl Chaban was one of our first Ma-

rines to be activated. Cpl Chaban is currently in Guantanamo bay, Cuba (GITMO), as part of the translators who are helping in the War on Terrorism. His address is: Cpl Chaban Y, Mouhamad JTF GTMO/CDC BLDG#329 RM#08 APOAE 09360.

## New Relief Act Provisions Protect Service Members

**New Relief Act Provisions Protect Service Members**  
By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA

American Forces Press Service  
January 7, 2004

WASHINGTON -- A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 will provide military personnel -- especially those deployed or called to active duty -- greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"The SCRA is a significant law, because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't

use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added.

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the 6 percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and that any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members and their dependents who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maximum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465. Lindemann said this will significantly increase the number of service members entitled to this protection.

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent-change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to the SCRA, service

members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA that did not exist in the SSCRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active duty service member who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges. "Now, service members won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," said Lindemann.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

### Scams

It has been brought to our attention that individuals claiming to be members of the Red Cross are notifying deployed Marines' family members, that their Marine is DUSTWON (unaccounted for, status unknown). It is important that these family members know that they will be contacted by the Marine Corps about the status of their Marine, not the Red Cross. It is also important to know that the Red Cross delivers information to the deployed Marine, not vice versa.

Apparently someone has set up a website labeled [www.mypay.com](http://www.mypay.com) to look like your DFAS LES Pay website. DO NOT put your social security number into the wrong website. The official MyPay website is: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. I.e. it should say DFAS and it should be a .mil website.



I hope the guys don't see this--"Michiana Buddy Walk"



## Small Business Loans Bring Temporary Relief to Reservists

By Staff Sgt. Michelle Thomas, USAF  
American Forces Press Service  
December 31, 2003

For Guardsmen and reservists who own small businesses, the costs involved in a deployment can be high, but for the past two years, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program has provided loans to eligible small businesses to cover operating costs that can't be met after a key employee is called to active duty in the reserves or National Guard. Small businesses can apply for Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million if they have been financially affected by the loss of an essential employee. These working capital loans may be used to pay operating expenses that otherwise could have been covered if the reservist or Guardsman hadn't been called to active duty. The loans cannot be used to refinance debt or expand the business, and the Small Business Administration determines the amount of economic injury.

### New Temporary Health Benefits for Reserves Announced

New Temporary Health Benefits for Reserves Announced  
Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense  
Feb. 12, 2004

WASHINGTON - The Department of Defense announced Feb. 12 that it will implement the 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program for certain eligible Reserve Component sponsors and their family members. The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal 2004 authorized new health benefits, some permanent and some temporary. The 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program includes three temporary Tricare benefit provisions; some are effective as of Nov. 6, 2003, and all expire Dec. 31, 2004. Tricare Management Activity will implement the new provisions in phases starting in the spring. One provision temporarily authorizes Tricare medical and dental coverage for Reserve component sponsors activated for more than 30 days and their family members. Eligibility begins either on the day the sponsor receives delayed-effective date active-duty orders or 90 days prior to the date the active-duty period begins, whichever is later. A second provision temporarily extends eligibility for Tricare benefits to 180 days under the Transitional Assistance Management Program for Reserve component sponsors who separate from active-duty status during the period Nov. 6, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004, and their eligible family members. The third provision temporarily extends Tricare medical benefits to Reserve component sponsors and family members who are either unemployed or employed but not eligible for employer-provided health coverage. These temporary provisions end Dec. 31, 2004. "We encourage Reserve component sponsors and family members to save health care receipts, claims and explanation of benefits for dates of service from Nov. 6, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2004. This is necessary in the event the sponsor is determined to be eligible and the care qualifies for retroactive Tricare reimbursement once the 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program begins," said Winkenwerder. The three permanent health benefit provisions of the NDAA include benefit counselors for the Reserve component in each Tricare region; authorization for medical and dental screening and care for members alerted for mobilization; and Tricare eligibility for Reserve officers pending orders to active duty following commissioning. Each Tricare region will soon have a designated beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator available to assist members and families with understanding and using their enhanced Tricare benefits.

### Reserve Get Full Time Commissary Benefits

Release No. 12-18-03  
Dec. 16, 2003  
[http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire/Reserve\\_DeCA\\_benefits.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire/Reserve_DeCA_benefits.htm)

"Little Pink Cards" Go Away as Guard, Reserve Get Full Time Commissary Benefits All over America, Guard and Reserve personnel are burning their "little pink cards." The signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act signaled unlimited shopping privilege for Reserve component members and their families. It also signaled the end of issuing, tracking, and checking off those little pink Commissary Privilege Cards. Previously, Reserve component personnel and their families were allowed 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year; and they had to have their privilege cards initialed at the commissary each day they shopped.

### Tax Statements Available on MyPay

Press Release 11030004  
Nov. 26, 2003  
For External Release  
[http://www.dfas.mil/news/releases/archive/03\\_53.htm](http://www.dfas.mil/news/releases/archive/03_53.htm)

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) recently released the schedule of dates when U.S. military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>). MyPay provides an easy, secure method for managing pay account information for America's military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilians.

## Useful Information and Links

### Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) <http://www.nmcrs.org>

When a Marine is activated and is on active duty he and his spouse qualify for interest-free loans or grants to help with *emergency needs* such as:

- Emergency Transportation
- Funeral Expenses
- Medical/dental Bills (patient's share)
- Food, Rent, and Utilities
- Disaster Relief Assistance
- Child Care Expenses
- Essential Vehicle Repairs
- Unforeseen Family Emergencies

The spouse does not need a pre-authorization through NMCRS. However, they do need either a valid General or a Special POA. Also, the POA must include the authority to borrow money in the service member's name. If they do not have a POA, the Red Cross will not be able to assist the spouse.

### MARFORRES MCCS creates web site.

MARFORRES Marine Corps Community Services has created a web site with lots of information related to family readiness.

<http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/hq/mccs/>

***LIFELines:** The Official Quality of Life Service Delivery Network of the Department of the Navy, serving Sailors, Marines and their families.*  
<http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/>

## MARINE FOR LIFE

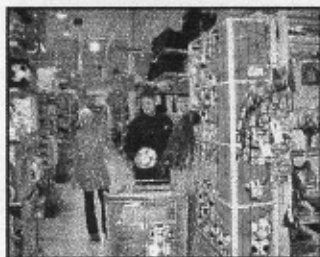
ONCE A MARINE,  
ALWAYS A MARINE

Get connected with the Marine-friendly network in your hometown

<http://www.m4l.usmc.mil/portal/server.pt/>

Our mission is to provide sponsorship to Marines who honorably leave active service and return to civilian life. We want to nurture and sustain the positive, mutually beneficial relationships inherent in our ethos

"Once A Marine, Always A Marine." The program combines online resources with personal assistance in hometowns across the country to ease your transition back to the community. Reserve Marines, who have made the transition from active duty and know the terrain, serve as **Hometown Links**. They have assembled local networks of Marines and Marine-friendly businesses, organizations and individuals who can provide assistance with Employment, Education, Housing and Military Benefits along with Community Information. We have already helped thousands of Marines make successful transitions - you can be next. The program is free and easy to use. If you are a **Transitioning Marine**, get started by creating a user account.



Doc Kwak and Mrs. Woods having a ball shopping at Meijeirs—Toys for Tots

**Red Cross:**  
<http://www.redcross.org/>

**Legal Assistance for the Military:**  
<http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/lamp/home.html>

**Boys and Girls Club:**  
<http://bgca.org/clubs/>

MCCS One Source offers advice, support, practical solutions, and online resources. Whether you're preparing for a new baby or preparing for retirement, getting organized or getting out of debt—no matter who you are—MCCS One Source is for you. No question is too small, no issue is too big. The service is pre-paid and confidential.

- 24-hour service, 7 days a week
- Personal support
- Referrals to military and community resources
- Online articles, newsletters, and workshops
- Pre-paid booklets and audio recordings
- Confidential consultation

Visit - [www.MCCSOneSource.com](http://www.MCCSOneSource.com)  
(user ID: marines  
password: semperfi)



New USMC Operation Iraqi Freedom Hotline #: 866-227-2708

#### Unit Address

Engineer Company B  
1901 South Kemble Ave  
South Bend, Indiana 46613-1799  
Phone: 574-233-8616  
Fax: 574-233-8346

#### Unit Key Volunteer Coordinator:

Christine Zupsich  
Email: zupsichcl@mfr.usmc.mil  
If you don't know who your Key  
Volunteer is please contact me.

## We have a web site:

[www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thfssg/6csbn/bcorein/](http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thfssg/6csbn/bcorein/)



Boy do we feel small

**Applicants for ID cards go to the web and search for the nearest DEERS/RAPIDS site using your zip code:  
<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>**

#### I.D. CARD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for ID cards at the South Bend Armed Forces Reserve Center should have the following documents upon arrival:

##### Service Members

Old ID card and/or Photo ID  
Valid Email Address  
Know the following: Home address, 2 phone numbers, Blood Type  
Current Orders for change of duty status/station/rank and if applicable DD 214  
Birth Certificate & Social Security Card  
Documentation of marital status

##### Spouse:

Sponsors Social Security Number  
Old ID and/or Photo ID  
Current Orders for change of duty status/station/rank and if applicable DD 214  
Birth Certificate & Social Security Card  
Documentation of marital status

##### Children

Current Orders for change of duty status/station/rank and if applicable DD 214  
Birth Certificate & Social Security Card  
Documentation of College Enrollment if applicable (Class schedule or letter from school stating enrollment)

##### NOTES:

- 1) If you've just returned from Boot Camp: I Will need a copy of enlistment documents showing "Reserve" status at least 48 hours in advance.
- 2) If child is living with sponsor they will not have to get an ID card until 10th birthday.
- 3) If child is NOT living with sponsor they will need to get an ID card regardless of age.
- 4) To enter a new dependant into the DEERS system at South Bend we require a minimum of a Birth Certificate and Social Security Card.
- 5) If someone has lost their Social Security Card we will accept a letter from the Social Security Administration showing that a new card is being issued. Contact 574-251-3446 in South Bend area to setup appointments with SSA.
- 6) All documentation should be brought in regardless of if family member is with you.
- 7) Appointments are advised! Phone numbers for Deers sites are as follows:

South Bend AFRC  
(CPL Michael King)  
574-289-5871 ext 29  
Tuesday-Saturday

Valparaiso Armory  
219-464-2070  
APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Grissom ARB  
(SGT Ron Wright)  
765-688-3909

Indianapolis- 4 sites  
317-532-4514 (Ft. Harrison)  
317-247-3535 (State HQ @ Stout Field)  
317-510-4430 (DFAS)  
317-924-6389 (NMCRC/USNR)

Camp Atterbury (Deployment Center)  
812-526-1111

Battle Creek, Michigan  
616-969-3216  
OR  
616-968-9216